

DAIRY 2020 EARLY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

The goal of the Dairy 2020 Early Planning program is to encourage and stimulate the start up, modernization and expansion of Wisconsin dairy farms. Since its inception in 1996, the program has provided more than \$1,700,000 to over 700 Wisconsin dairy producers.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Eligible applicants for the Dairy 2020 Early Planning program include existing and start-up dairy producers whose farms are, or will be located in a city, town or village with a population less than 6,000.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Proceeds from an award may be used only to cover the cost of having an independent third party provide the professional services necessary to assist the applicant in the start-up, modernization or expansion of a Wisconsin dairy farm.

Examples of eligible professional services include activities such as the preparation of a comprehensive business plan.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY:

Although Commerce can provide 75% of eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$3,000, the actual amount of funds awarded is based upon factors such as:

- The viability of the project.
- The project's economic impact.
- Fund availability.

MATCHING FUNDS:

Applicants are required to contribute at least 25% of the total project costs from sources other than the State of Wisconsin.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

The Dairy 2020 Early Planning program application process involves three steps:

4. Interested applicants must first talk with the Dairy 2020 Program Executive Director (see below), who will discuss the project with the applicant, provide a copy of the application manual and identify other programs that could potentially assist the applicant.
5. The Applicant will complete the application manual and submit it to the Department for review.
6. The project will be underwritten and a funding recommendation will be made by an Internal Review Committee. The project will either be:
 - A. Denied, in which case the applicant will receive a letter outlining the reasons for denial;
 - OR**
 - C. Approved, in which case, the applicant will receive notification of the award.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Irv Possin
Executive Director
Dairy 2020 Program
140 North Main Street
P.O. Box 1303
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1303
920/322-1888
Fax: 920/929-7126
Email: ipossin@commerce.state.wi.us